



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Firehouse Renovation and Modernization Engine Company 16 1018 13th Street NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7444 NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 21.00(38.00)43683
SUBMITTED BY District of Columbia Department of General Services	ACTION TAKEN Final approval of building plans REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (e)

The District of Columbia Department of General Services (DCDGS) has requested preliminary and final approval of building plans for the renovation and modernization of Engine Company 16 Firehouse located at 1018 13th Street NW, Washington, DC. The firehouse was designed by Albert L. Harris in the Colonial Revival style and was built in 1932. The building is listed in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places.

The scope of the modernization project is to provide a complete renovation of the 30,052 square foot facility. Modifications will be made to both the interior and exterior of the building in order to optimize functionality to accommodate a “Type C” station which is the largest of the three types of District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Services stations. The renovated space will include an area that is specifically designed to store fire gear and utility space on the basement level. The kitchen spaces will be increased on the first floor and modern locker/restroom facilities, office space, and sleeping quarters will be provided on the second floor. The third floor will contain office space, a conference room, and restroom spaces. As part of the modernization, the apparatus bay doors on the first floor will be widened to accommodate large, contemporary fire equipment and trucks. Other alterations to the exterior will include the replacement of all windows and doors; the replacement of the slate roof with a faux slate; the construction of an aluminum balustrade around the top of the rear stair tower/hose tower; the removal of old conduit and fixtures; repairs to the belfry; and replacement of mechanical equipment.

Exterior modifications have been designed to retain the character of the historic building; however, it is necessary to widen the front apparatus bay doors in order to accommodate current and future vehicle size requirements. The vehicle doors will be widened to twelve feet, allowing for eight-foot-wide trucks with one-foot mirrors to have a one-foot clearance on either side. This change will require the reconstruction of nearly all of the first-floor façade, including the arches, with a narrowing of all the piers and the watch room on the interior of the firehouse. The piers will be narrowed to the width of the piers on the floors above. All the brick from the face of the building up to the stone trim at the second floor will be removed. At least 25% of the brick will be salvaged for reuse in the new façade and the stone water table will also be removed and salvaged. Arches will be

constructed above the bay doors and will be installed in a similar pattern as the original design. A new brick has been selected to match the original material in color and it will be blended with the salvaged brick to minimize the change in appearance.

Due to the project's location within the Central Area, NCPC has approval authority and therefore, NCPC has an independent responsibility to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). DCDGS submitted an Environmental Intake Form to the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and DCRA determined that no additional environmental review was required. Following an independent review of the project materials and confirmation that no extraordinary circumstances exist, NCPC staff determined that the project can be categorically excluded pursuant to Section 8(C)(8) of NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures.

Due to NCPC's approval role over the project, NCPC has consultation responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. NCPC conducted consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) and determined the proposed project would have no adverse effects to historic properties. NCPC notified the DC SHPO of this determination on November 9, 2012. On November 29, 2012, the Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the project under the District of Columbia Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act and recommended the project as sufficiently compatible with the character of the historic building. Therefore, given the Historic Preservation Review Board's decision and the expiration of the 30 day Section 106 review period with no response from the DC SHPO to NCPC's determination of no adverse effect, NCPC may move forward with approval of the project.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its November 14, 2012 meeting and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the General Services Administration; the National Park Service, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (e), I approve the preliminary and final building plans for the renovation and modernization of Engine Company 16, 1018 13th Street NW, Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 21.00(38.00)43683.

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

[Date]